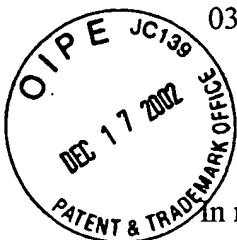


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PATENT APPLICATION



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:

SHIN MUTO

Application No.: 09/625,842

Filed: July 26, 2000

For: SYSTEM FOR SEARCHING
FOR APPARATUS CONNECTED
TO NETWORK AND APPARATUS
EMPLOYED BY SAME SYSTEM,
AND CONTROL METHOD
THEREFOR

Group Art Unit: 2756

RECEIVED

DEC 18 2002

Technology Center 2100

December 16, 2002

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Sir:

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.56, Applicant respectfully directs the Examiner's attention to the documents listed below and on the enclosed Form PTO-1449. Copies of the documents listed are also enclosed.

Europe 0656581
Japan 10-187390

These documents were cited during prosecution of a foreign counterpart application, namely China 00131693.1. A copy of a Chinese Office Action dated November 8, 2002 is enclosed, together with an English language translation thereof.

An English language abstract for the document 10-187390 has been located and is enclosed for the Examiner's consideration. The concise explanation of relevance for

the document Japan 10-187390 is believed to be satisfied by the enclosed English abstract.
See MPEP § 609.

Inasmuch as this application has not yet received a first Office Action, it is believed that this Information Disclosure Statement is timely. See 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b)(3). Accordingly, the Examiner is urged to study this information in its entirety and to form an independent determination of the materiality of the information to the claimed invention. Additionally, the Examiner is requested to indicate that this information has been considered by initialing the appropriate portion of the Form PTO-1449.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa, California office by telephone at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address given below.

Respectfully submitted,


Attorney for Applicant

Registration No. 42,746

FITZPATRICK, CELLA, HARPER & SCINTO
30 Rockefeller Plaza
New York, New York 10112-3801
Facsimile: (212) 218-2200
CA_MAIN 55271 v1